

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the addition of new claims 22 to 27, claims 11 to 27 are currently pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references.

II. Objections to the Specification

While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the merits of the objections to the Specification and do not necessarily agree with the characterization of "misuse" of the term "voice recognition," to facilitate matters, a Substitute Specification accompanies this response, in which the Specification has been amended without prejudice to obviate the present objections. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of these objections is therefore respectfully requested.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.125(b), the Substitute Specification (including the Abstract, but without the claims) contains no new matter. The amendments reflected in the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are to correct informalities. As required by 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(b)(3)(ii) and § 1.125(c), a Marked-Up Version of the Substitute Specification comparing the Specification of record and the Substitute Specification also accompanies this Amendment. Approval and entry of the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) is respectfully requested.

III. Objection to Claim 19

While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the merits of this objection and do not necessarily agree with the characterization of "misuse of the term 'voice recognition,'" claim 19 has been amended herein without prejudice to change "voice recognition" to --speech recognition--. It is therefore respectfully

submitted that the present objection has been obviated, and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claims 11 to 13, 15, 17, 18, and 21 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 11 to 13, 15, 17, 18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,012,221 ("Neuhaus et al."). It is respectfully submitted that Neuhaus et al. do not anticipate the present claims for the following reasons.

Claim 11 relates to a method for outputting at least one of information and status messages of at least one electrical device using speech, and recites storing the at least one of information and status messages relating to a voice output in a speech memory, and selectively reading, by a processing device, the at least one of information and status messages.

Neuhaus et al. relate to an emergency vehicle audible warning system for output of sound phrases, such as bell-like sound phrases, col. 8, lines 16 to 20, in a manner that indicates a level of urgency, unlike other conventional sirens which do not indicate a level of urgency. However, Neuhaus et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, a method for outputting sounds using speech, in a manner that indicates a level of urgency, and do not disclose, or even suggest, storing sounds in a speech memory relating to a voice output.

Furthermore, Neuhaus et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, selectively reading the at least one of information and status messages by a processing device. Rather, four versions of a sound phrase, for example, a siren, are stored, where the versions differ with respect to a frequency combination. Col. 9, lines 1 to 30. A user manually selects one of the versions, for a processor to implement. Col. 9, lines 31 to 44. A frequency combination is selected, rather than a particular information or status message. Thus, Neuhaus et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features of claim 11. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Neuhaus et al. do not anticipate claim 11.

Claims 12, 13, 15, 17, and 18 depend from claim 11 and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 11. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Neuhaus et al. do not anticipate these dependent claims for the same reasons set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 11.

Claim 21 relates to a device for outputting at least one of information and status messages using speech, and recites a speech memory that is configured to store data relating to a voice output of the at least one of information and status messages. Claim 21 further recites an acoustic output device on which the at least one of information and status messages is selectively output.

As set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 11, Neuhaus et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, a device for outputting at least one of information and status messages using speech, a speech memory, or an output device on which information or a status message is selectively output. Thus, Neuhaus et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the feature of claim 21.

V. Rejection of Claims 14 and 16 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Neuhaus et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,359,713 ("Tsunoda et al."). Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Neuhaus et al. and Tsunoda et al. does not render unpatentable claims 14 and 16 for the following reasons.

Claims 14 and 16 depend from claim 11 and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 11. As set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 11, Neuhaus et al. do not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of claim 11, from which claims 14 and 16 depend. Tsunoda et al. are not relied upon for disclosing or suggesting the limitations of claim 11 not disclosed or suggested by Neuhaus et al. Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that Tsunoda et al. do not disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 11 not disclosed or suggested by Neuhaus et al. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the combination of Neuhaus et al. and Tsunoda et al. does not render unpatentable claims 14 and 16, which depend from claim 11. In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (any dependent claim that depends from a non-obvious independent claim is non-obvious).

VI. Rejection of Claim 19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Neuhaus et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,584,052 ("Gulau et al.").

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Neuhaus et al. and Gulau et al. does not render unpatentable claim 19 for the following reasons.

Claim 19 depends from claim 11 and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 11. A set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 11, Neuhaus et al. do not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of claim 11, from which claim 19 depends. Gulau et al. are not relied upon for disclosing or suggesting the limitations of claim 11 not disclosed or suggested by Neuhaus et al. Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that Gulau et al. do not disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 11 not disclosed or suggested by Neuhaus et al. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the combination of Neuhaus et al. and Gulau et al. does not render unpatentable claim 19, which depends from claim 11. Id.

VII. Rejection of Claim 20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Neuhaus et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,173,266 ("Marx et al."). Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Neuhaus et al. and Marx et al. does not render unpatentable claim 19 for the following reasons.

Claim 20 depends from claim 11 and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 11. A set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 11, Neuhaus et al. do not disclose or suggest all of the limitations of claim 11, from which claim 20 depends. Marx et al. are not relied upon for disclosing or suggesting the limitations of claim 11 not disclosed or suggested by Neuhaus et al. Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that Marx et al. do not disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 11 not disclosed or suggested by Neuhaus et al. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the combination of Neuhaus et al. and Marx et al. does not render unpatentable claim 20, which depends from claim 11. Id.

Furthermore, claim 20 recites changing a dialog-communication level in response to a failure to interact with a last of successive alternatives of at least one of information and status messages. In Marx et al., a fallback method will be used if it is determined that a **threshold retry number** is reached. Col. 13, lines 59 to 62. Marx et al. do not disclose or suggest changing a dialog-communication level in response to **a failure to interact with a last of successive alternatives**. For this additional reason, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Neuhaus et al. and Marx et al. does not render unpatentable claim 20.

VIII. New Claims 22 to 27

New claims 22 to 27 have been added herein. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 22 to 27 do not add any new matter and are fully supported by the present application, including the Specification. Since claims 22 to 27 ultimately depend from claim 11, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22 to 27 are patentable over the references relied upon for at least the same reasons given above in support of the patentability of claim 11.

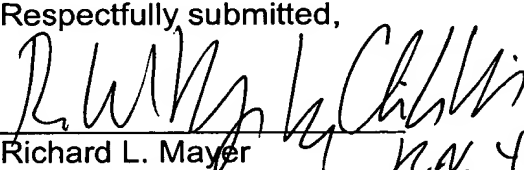
IX. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Dated: Nov. 3, 2004

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